

SUMMARY OF ASSESSMENTS, RECOMMENDATIONS, AND RESPONSES

This is a brief summary of the required assessments for this ISP, the recommendations that were made both for the overall plan and by SO, as well as brief responses. To the extent possible, the recommendations were incorporated into the ISP within the SOs. For details, the reader should refer to the specific assessments and SOs.

ENVIRONMENTAL THREATS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT (ETOA)

The ETOA was conducted by a consultant from Chemonics International Inc. and a Rwandan partner in February of 2003 to meet the formal environmental requirements specified in ADS 201.3.4.11.b and to support the mission's strategic planning process. The ETOA noted the difficult contextual issues in Rwanda, as well as some positive developments, such as Rwanda's new constitution, which ensures the protection and sustainable management of Rwanda's environment. It also recognized the potential of the decentralization process for improved environmental stewardship. However, at this point, the authors noted, environmental protection is spread over several ministries, with little coordination. Rwanda's natural resources include the biodiverse Akagera National Park, Nyungwe Forest Reserve, and Volcano National Park, as well as wetlands, marshlands, lake shore resources, and the remnants of Giswati and Mukura parks, whose forests are important for Rwanda's watersheds.

<i>Recommendations</i>	<i>Responses</i>
<i>Overall</i> included: move beyond environmental compliance to maintain and restore "the environmental resources on which economic growth depends;" support the formulation of regulations and applications for implementation of Rwanda's framework environmental law; support the establishment of the Rwanda Environmental Management Authority (REMA); promote transparent, accountable, and decentralized management of natural resources; help build local capacity for IEEs and EIAs; and more proactively work to resolve major biodiversity issues like overgrazing.	The SO7 team has integrated several actions that go beyond environmental compliance as a part of its activities and will be building on and expanding these with its Rwandan partners. The mission has been providing critical technical assistance and policy direction for the creation of a multi-sectoral utilities regulation agency that will oversee several industries with environmental impacts. In addition, the mission is encouraging and supporting the creation of the new Rwanda Environmental Management Authority, which will play a leading role in formulating regulations and applications for implementing Rwanda's environmental laws. Building local capacity for decentralization is a cross-cutting theme for all SOs. Through ENCAP, the mission will be supporting environmental capacity building training for its implementing partners and other stakeholders, to that they are able to conduct IEEs and EIAs. The mission has obtained \$250,000 through CARPE for study and preservation of biodiversity in Nyungwe Forest, however, this type of funding is limited.

<i>Recommendations</i>	<i>Responses</i>
<i>SO5, Democracy and Governance:</i> Help to build local communities' capacity for environmental review, assessment, and decision-making as part of decentralization; strengthen civil society organizations that promote environmental management; build the environmental management and protection capacity of local governments; and improve district land use planning.	A major focus of this SO is building the capacity of local governments, communities, and civil society organizations for public dialogue and citizen participation in decision-making. Some of these activities will include environmental components, such as trainings for CSOs on environmental assessment and review and in the use of an environmental checklist for local authorities for community development projects. However, funding for this SO is limited and needs for more basic capacity building activities than natural resource management greatly outstripped the ability to respond.
<i>SO6, Health and HIV/AIDS:</i> Strengthen family planning programs in environmentally sensitive areas; develop a program for medical waste disposal; and conduct a follow-up survey of users of treated mosquito nets.	Family planning programs have been integrated into the decentralized healthcare delivery system that is central to this SO. While environmentally sensitive areas have not been specifically targeted for family planning services, to the extent that the program is successful, natural resource use overall will decline. An activity to develop a medical waste incineration facility is planned. A follow-up survey of mosquito net users is an excellent idea and will be considered.
<i>SO7, Economic Growth:</i> Increase off-forest timber production and enhance the market potential of non-timber forest products; promote forest-plantation-based small-scale industries; support additional studies on biodiversity and better integration of terracing on farms; and modify DAPs to better reflect current socioeconomic and environmental reality.	The SO7 Team is looking to identify products for market development and transformation, including non-timber forest products such as honey. The Team will also be considering a range of possible activities and policy analysis that may include forestry management and biodiversity preservation. Handicrafts and small-scale industries other efforts to increase income generation are being considered for support. The mission cannot modify DAPs itself, however, it will be holding a retreat with cooperating sponsors to strengthen the design of the next round of DAPs and account for the recommendations of the ETOA.

GENDER ASSESSMENT

A Gender Assessment and Action Plan for USAID/Rwanda was conducted in March 2002 by two consultants from the International Center for Research on Women. In addition, a Regional Gender Impact Assessment was conducted by Development Associates in January 2002. Subsequently, an Executive Summary Gender Assessment for the new ISP was conducted in February 2003, by the Gender Specialist from REDSO, on which this summary is based. The Gender Assessment examined the impact on gender relations of Rwanda's 1994 civil war and genocide and possible strategies for enhancing women's decision-making in its aftermath. The assessments notes that 21% of adult women are widows, 34% of households are headed by

women, 62% of whom are in poverty. At the same time, this has meant that women have been thrust into the traditionally male roles of provider and protector. As men are released from prison, demilitarized or repatriated, they are likely to expect to regain their former status and power within the household, though opportunities for employment are scarce and claims to land will be disputed. The Assessment projects that this dynamic may be a source of future conflict, if not addressed.

In addition, as women's status improves within Rwandan society, for example through the introduction laws guaranteeing women's political representation and equal rights to land, inheritance, and property, a potential for gender conflict may arise, as these changes are political and increase competition for scarce resources. Finally, there is a wide gender gape at the tertiary education level for women.

<i>Recommendations</i>	<i>Responses</i>
<p><i>Overall:</i> The mission needs to clearly identify a specific gender impact it seeks to achieve and to establish criteria for achieving gender-specific results that hold SO Teams and partners accountable. A mission-wide gender strategy should be developed. The participation of women in governance should be scaled up and the effective participation of women should be a part of each sector strategy. Care should be taken that women to do not lose control over resources that they have gained as their legal control over them is increased. Women should be trained at equal rates to men in any mission-supported education, training, or ICT initiative. The recommendations of the gender analyses should be put into practice and the Gender Action Committee formalized. Gender training and TA should be provided for all staff and implementing partners. Finally, contracting documents should be reviewed to ensure compliance with the ADS.</p>	<p>The mission is committed to increasing gender equality in all of its activities [IS THERE A SPECIFIC TARGET FROM THE MPP THAT COULD BE USED HERE?]. SO Teams, working with their partners, consider gender in all of their activities, based on the gender assessments that have been done. Where practicable, SOs include IRs for gender-specific results. Though a mission-wide gender strategy has not been developed, the mission strives to integrate gender into all of its planning and implementation activities. Great strides have been made in scaling up the effective participation of women in governance and women's participation is an integral part of each sector strategy. The mission is following closely the implementation of Rwanda's new constitution and laws governing property, to ensure that women retain the rights they have recently gained, though recommendations on this issue will be pursued primarily through diplomatic channels. Women are not as yet trained at equal rates to men in mission-supported training initiatives, as men are disproportionately represented in most fields, however care is always taken to include women to the greatest extent possible. The Gender Action Committee [HAS/HAS NOT been formalized....because....]. Gender training [HAS/HAS NOT been provided for all staff and implementing partners...]. All contracting documents are reviewed by the mission's Gender Officer to ensure compliance with the ADS.[NOTE SURE IF THIS IS TRUE]</p>

<i>Recommendations</i>	<i>Responses</i>
SO5: Support the revision of discriminatory laws; provide training to the civilian police force in gender issues, especially sexual violence; encourage and support a caucus of women parliamentarians; continue and expand the scholarship program; develop baseline data to support the program.	Many of Rwanda's discriminatory laws are being rewritten, including the recently approved constitution. Rwanda's Police Training Academy was trained in gender issues and sexual violence and all new recruits are required to take this training. USAID and the U.S. Embassy together supported the creation of a Rwandan Women's Caucus. The mission's costly secondary school scholarship program is for both male and female genocide orphans covers all sectors, however it is not possible to expand it. The SO Team is working on a SOW for a polling program that will be used to base its IRS on.
SO6: Identify gender concerns in national policy and take gender inequalities into account in resource allocation and management activities; measure women's health; conduct specific health and gender assessments to guide partners; strengthen partner's capacity to identify gender considerations; support women's leadership; and strengthen donor coordination on gender and health.	Gender
SO7: Conduct a gender analysis of the ag sector to define opportunities; assess gender dimensions of cooperatives and farmer associations and ensure women are not marginalized; develop credit programs with national impact; and mainstream gender in the rural roads infrastructure program.	The SO7 Team will account for the impact of gender through the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of all of its activities, including rural infrastructure improvement. USAID will be continuing its support of the Banque Populaire, the country's leading credit union, to support credit and savings mobilization for men and women.

CONFLICT VULNERABILITY ANALYSIS (CVA)

The Conflict Vulnerability Analysis was conducted during March and April 2002, by a team from Management Systems International. The team found that while Rwanda does not face an imminent prospect of internal violent conflict, there is still significant potential for conflict in the country and region, largely as a result of the 1994 genocide and civil war. For this reason, though the Government of Rwanda (GOR) has made significant achievements in reconciliation, governance, and administrative reform, the team said, Rwanda must be seen as "a society in post-traumatic convalescence." Peace, stability, and long-term national reconciliation are

therefore issues that are of great importance. However, the team said that the GOR seems to be attempting to extend its exclusive control of the political system beyond the transition period. Consequently, effective structures allowing for the peaceful expression of dissent or redress of grievances are lacking and could lead individuals or groups to seek violent means of expression. The GOR's land policy is a potential flashpoint, as land is scarce and there is already significant conflict over land tenure. Involuntary relocation of individuals and communities and consolidation of land holdings, for example, could lead to much larger numbers of landless and jobless poor, and few off-farm activities currently exist to employ these people. The government's dauntingly ambitious Gacaca program, while it offers the potential for justice and reconciliation in Rwanda, also could have destabilizing consequences if not handled successfully. Finally, HIV/AIDS also has the potential to increase underlying instability in the country.

<i>Recommendations</i>	<i>Responses</i>
<i>Overall:</i> USAID/Rwanda's overall programming in the areas of health, governance, and agriculture and economic growth should be retained. However, democracy and governance and agriculture are underfunded. Support of the positive actions of the GOR should continue, but with an increase in expressions of public concern about less positive aspects of the country's political development.	The mission has retained its overall programming in health, governance, and agriculture and economic growth. Democracy and governance and economic growth activities are limited by funding constraints imposed by Washington. The mission continues to be supportive of the GOR's many positive actions and accomplishments and to work closely with the U.S. Embassy to encourage a more positive political climate in Rwanda.
<i>SO5:</i> Support to civil-society development is essential and needs to continue, as does support to public participation in policy reform processes. Gacaca requires particular attention and should be closely monitored. Donors should be visibly involved in Gacaca and coordinate closely to ensure success.	Civil society development and citizen participation are integrated throughout the mission's programming, but particularly in SO5 and SO6. Gacaca is being monitored in some areas by the NGO Seruka, however, the mission is most closely engaged in supporting the process, rather than highlighting its inadequacies. The mission is also involved in donor coordination efforts, which are being led by the Belgian Embassy.
<i>SO6:</i> No recommendations.	This SO incorporates civil society development and citizen participation and supports the government's decentralization process through its strategy of decentralizing healthcare service provision to the district level and below.

<i>Recommendations</i>	<i>Responses</i>
SO7: Resources should be devoted to working with the GOR to avoid the dangers of precipitous and coercive land-tenure reform. Land tenure reform should be closely monitored. USAID activities should support both economic growth and a safety net for poorer families.	The mission has been working with the GOR on its land reform policy and has been giving clear and consistent messages about what it perceives as the vulnerability to conflict for the country if the reform is not carefully planned and pursued. This is an issue that is being monitored carefully by the mission. SO7 includes a variety of activities that assist marginalized groups, including the rural infrastructure program, which uses Food for Work funds, and feeding programs for orphans and AIDS-affected families.